



Health Department

Disease Reporting Line
Telephone: (801) 525-5220 – Fax: (801) 525-5210

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Health Update

May 7, 2014

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

The first confirmed imported case in the United States of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) was reported in Indiana on May 2, 2014. The patient is a healthcare provider and recently traveled from Saudi Arabia where outbreaks of MERS-CoV are occurring. There is currently no evidence of sustained spread of MERS-CoV in community settings and no additional confirmed cases have been reported in Utah or any other states.

MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory illness that was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Most people with confirmed MERS-CoV infection have developed severe acute respiratory illness – including symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. About 30% of these people died. All cases have been linked to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula. The virus has spread from ill people to others through close contact.

Healthcare professionals, including emergency department personnel, should evaluate patients for MERS-CoV infection if they present with fever and symptoms of respiratory illness (i.e. cough or shortness of breath) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula. Please see the attached document with additional information on the current recommendations for evaluating patients for MERS-CoV, the case definition for MERS-CoV, precautions to employ when managing patients with known or suspected infection, and assistance with laboratory testing.

Questions/Reporting

If you have questions about MERS-CoV, please call the Davis County Health Department at (801) 525-5200.

All suspected cases of MERS-CoV should be reported immediately to the Davis County Health Department, **Disease Reporting Line (801)525-5220**.